



U.S. Department of Justice

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News Release

Andrew T. Baxter, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced that Ralph Cannizzo, age 57, of Auburn, New York was sentenced on November 9, 2009, by Chief U.S. District Judge Norman A. Mordue, in Syracuse, New York in connection with his prior plea of guilty to filing a false corporate tax return. Cannizzo was ordered to serve five months of imprisonment, five months of home detention, and upon his release from custody, three years of supervised release. As part of his sentence, the defendant is required to pay all of his back taxes due, a \$5,000 fine, and a special assessment of \$100.

On June 22, 2009, Cannizzo entered a plea of guilty before Chief Judge Mordue to the felony offense of filing a false corporate tax return for his corporation, American Packaging I, Inc. in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1). In entering his guilty plea, Cannizzo admitted that, on or about March 15, 2004, he filed a U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return (Form 1120) for American Packaging I, Inc. relating to the tax year 2003, which he knew to be false. That tax return substantially and materially understated API's taxable income and understated the amount of tax due and owing. Specifically, Cannizzo admitted that he had claimed taxable income of \$118 when the correct taxable income was \$183,529.71, and he had paid taxes of \$18, when the correct tax due and owing was \$54,855.

This case was investigated by Special Agents from the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. This prosecution was handled in the United States Attorney's Office by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael C. Olmsted and Geoffrey Brown. Further inquiries can be directed to the United States Attorney's Office at (315) 448-0672.